

Member State Briefing

Department of Digital Health and Innovation

5 March 2024



Topic Overview

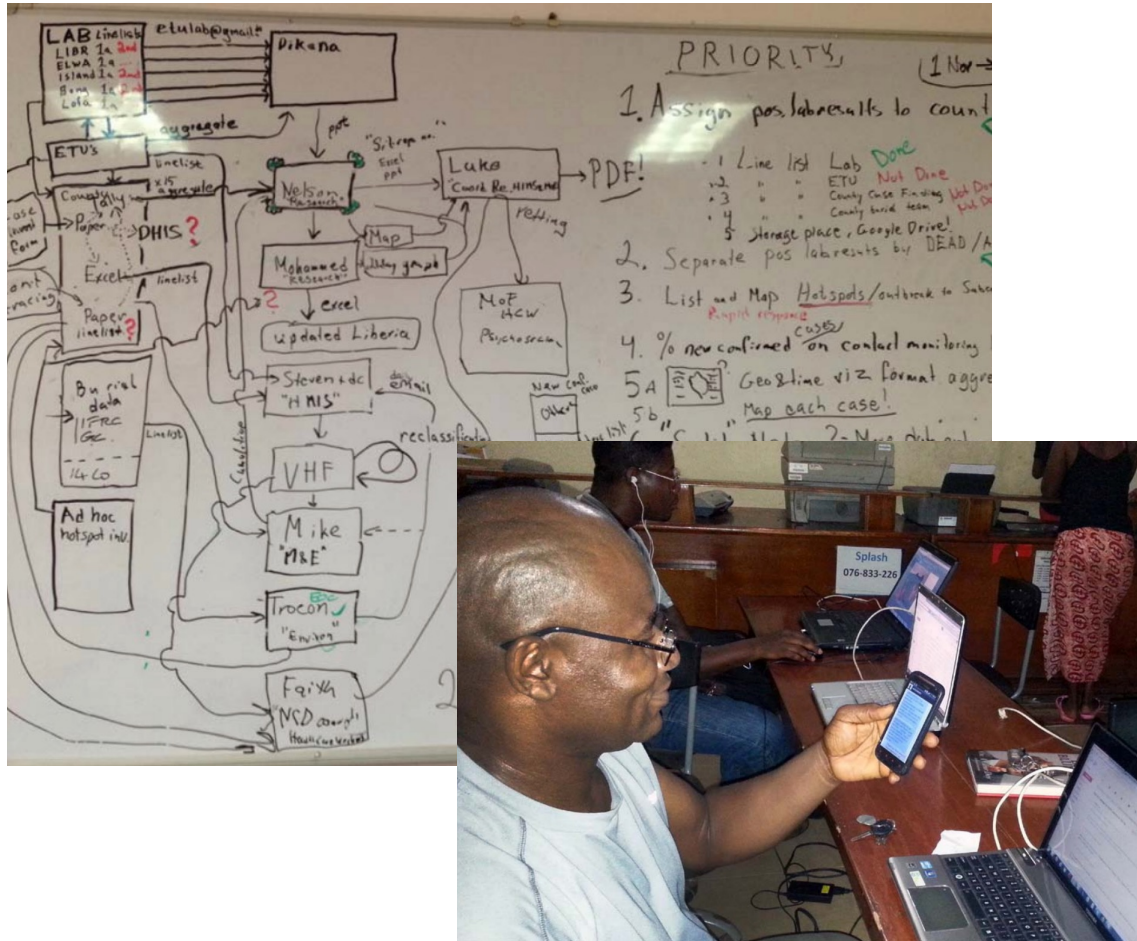
1. Global Strategy on Digital Health
2. Global Initiative on Digital Health
3. Global Digital Health Certification Network

“The future of health depends on how well we power health through science, research, innovation, data, digital technologies, and partnerships.”

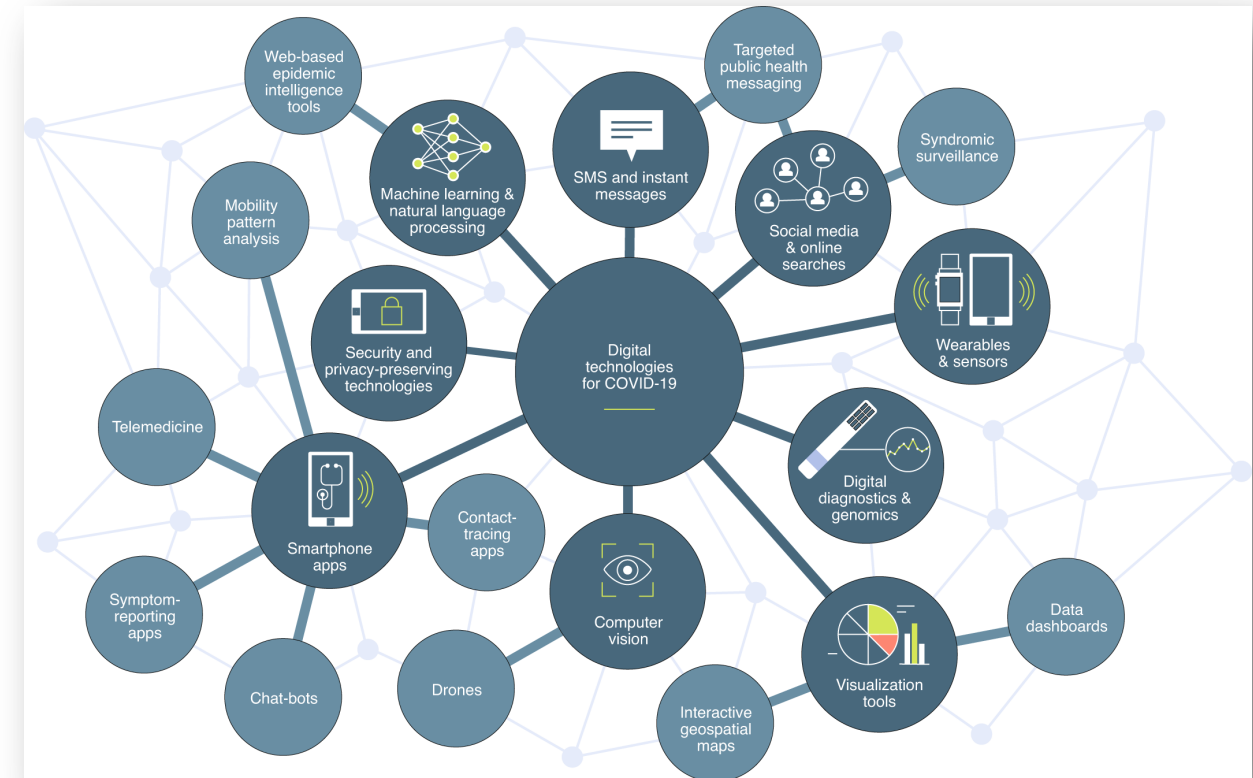
- WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus



Resilient, future-proof health systems must be digital



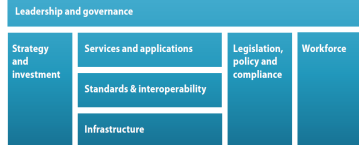
Taxonomy of Digital Health Strategies applied during COVID-19



WHO has been supporting MS's in Digital Health for over two decades

WHA58.28 on eHealth
 Consider drawing up a long-term strategic plan for developing and implementing eHealth services promote equitable, affordable and universal access to their benefits

Repository of eHealth Strategies



Last update of Repository of eHealth Strategies

WHA71.7 Digital health
 Develop... in close consultation with Member States and with inputs from relevant stakeholders... a global strategy on digital health, identifying priority areas including where WHO should focus its efforts".

Launch of the Global Initiative on AI4H



Launch of the Global Initiative on Digital Health & Certification Network



2030 SDGs

2005 05 2010 2013 05 2016 2018 05 11 2023 NOW 2025 2030



WHA66.24 on eHealth standardization and interoperability
 Consider developing... policies and legislative mechanisms linked to an overall national eHealth strategy



IMPLEMENTATION

Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025



Global strategy on digital health
 Improve health for everyone...affordable, scalable digital health and wellbeing...support equitable access to quality health services...implication for access, cost, quality of digital solutions

WHO continues to provide norms, standards and technical leadership to countries on “cutting-edge” issues

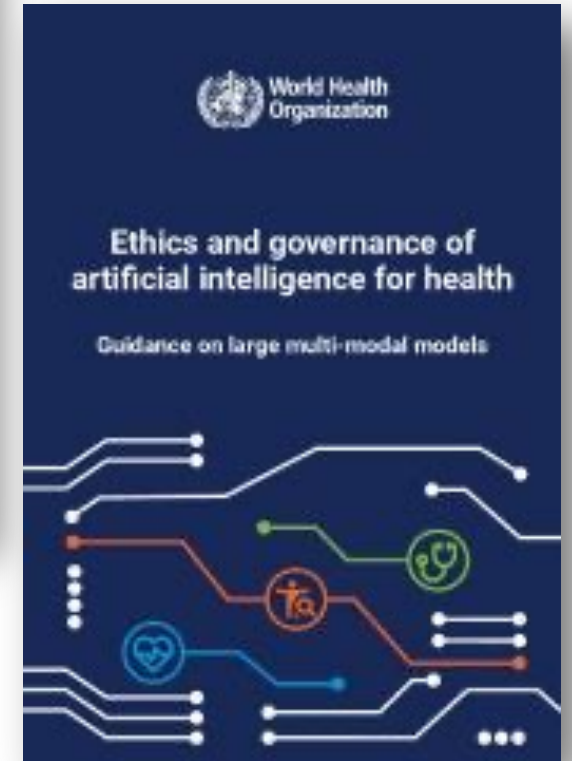
Examples:

Ethics and Governance of Artificial Intelligence for Health

Ethics and Governance of Large Multi-Modal Models

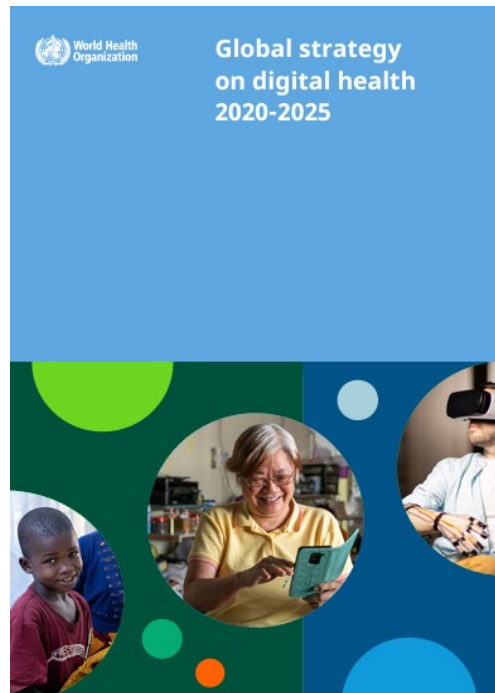


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The **Global Strategy on Digital Health** reflects 194 Member-States call for coordination across WHO, Partners and Countries



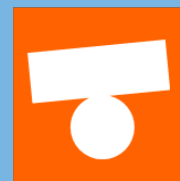
Global Digital Health Strategy 2020 – 2025, Strategic Objectives



Promote global collaboration & advance the transfer of knowledge on digital health



Advance the implementation of national digital health strategies



Strengthen governance for digital health at global, regional and national levels



Advocate people-centered health systems that are enabled by digital health

The Global Strategy has enabled several flagship activities to support country progress



Supporting National Digital Health Strategies



Measuring Country Maturity and Enabling Environment / Progress



Reduced Fragmentation and Improved Knowledge Sharing

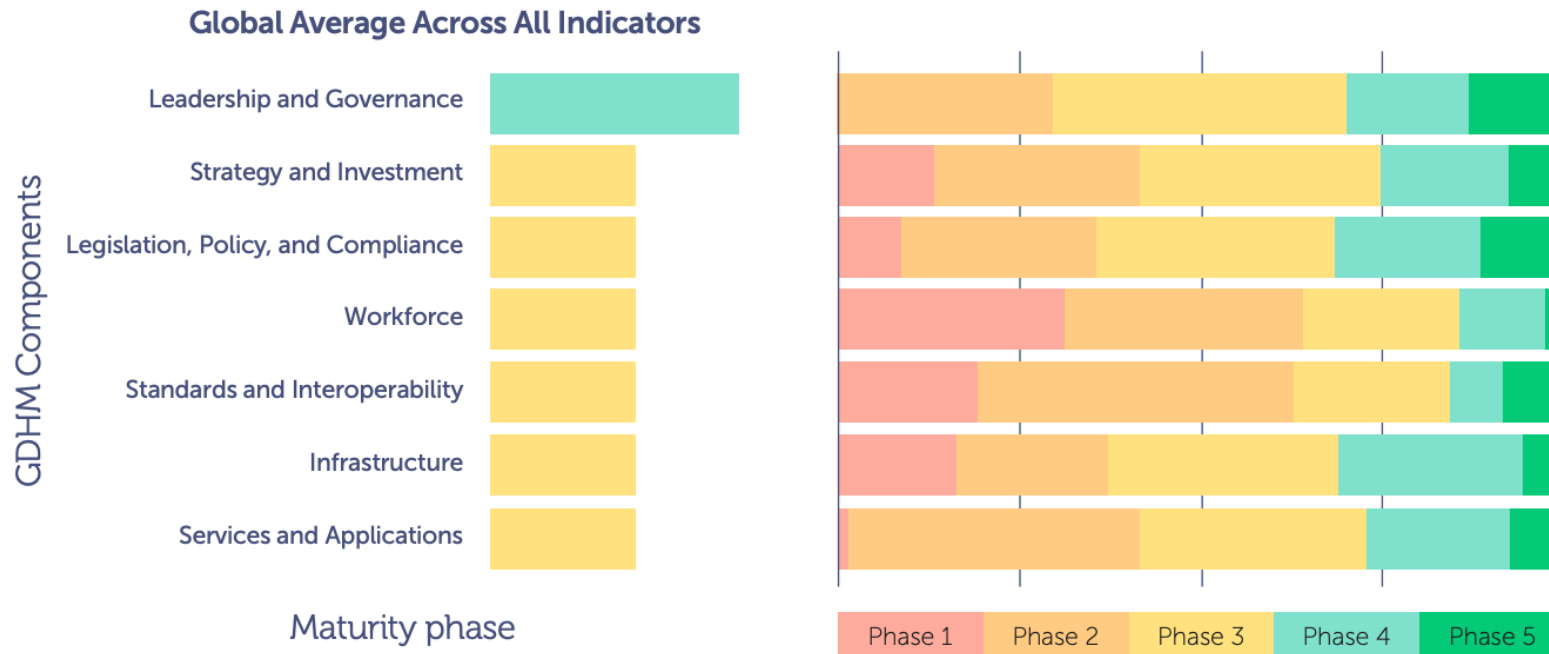


Roadmaps for Digital Transformation Planning and Costing

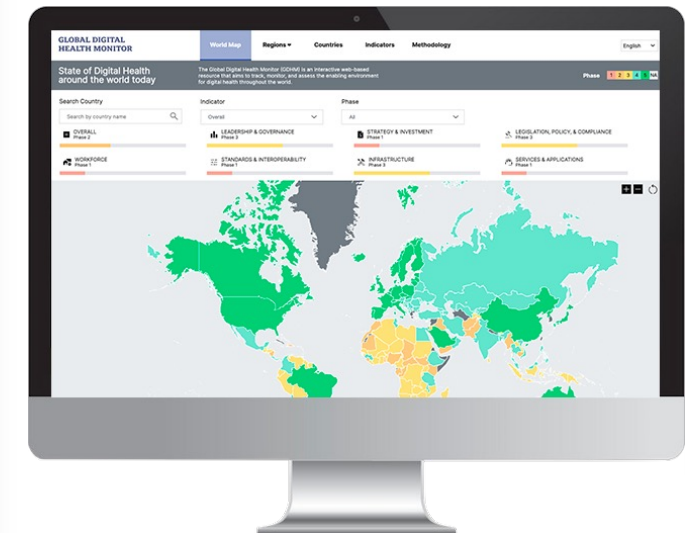
>120 countries have a DH Strategy, but inequitable global progress

Data available for 67 countries (as of Feb 2024)

GLOBAL DIGITAL HEALTH MATURITY PHASES BY COMPONENT



GLOBAL DIGITAL HEALTH MONITOR



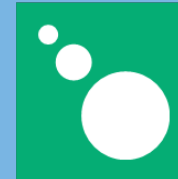
The WHO Secretariat continues to advance the Global Strategy:

- **Mid-term report presented at WHA May 2023.**
- **Initiatives launched to meet the four strategic objectives.**
 - SO1: Global mechanisms on international collaboration in digital health and artificial intelligence established.
 - SO2: Regional Action Frameworks developed or in progress for 5 of 6 WHO regions.
 - SO3: A global mechanism for measuring digital health maturity identified and in transition to WHO.
 - SO4: A global digital health trust architecture established.

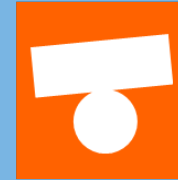
Global Digital Health Strategy 2020 – 2025, Strategic Objectives



SO1. Promote global collaboration & advance the transfer of knowledge on digital health



SO2. Advance the implementation of national digital health strategies



SO3. Strengthen governance for digital health at global, regional and national levels



SO4. Advocate people-centered health systems that are enabled by digital health

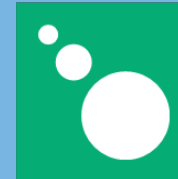
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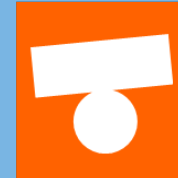
Global Digital Health Strategy 2020 – 2025, Strategic Objectives



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SO3. Strengthen governance for digital health at global, regional and national levels



SO4. Advocate people-centered health systems that are enabled by digital health

Key Asks to Member States

1. Data collection for final report
2. Participation at the WSIS Forum
3. Strengthening use of the Global Digital Health Monitor
4. Refocused attention on the Global Strategy on Digital Health



Global Initiative on Digital Health

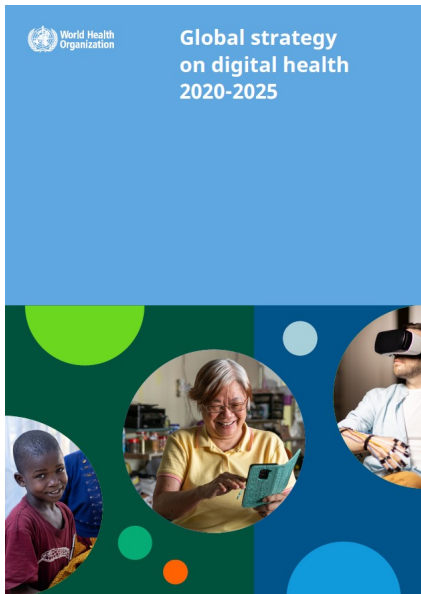
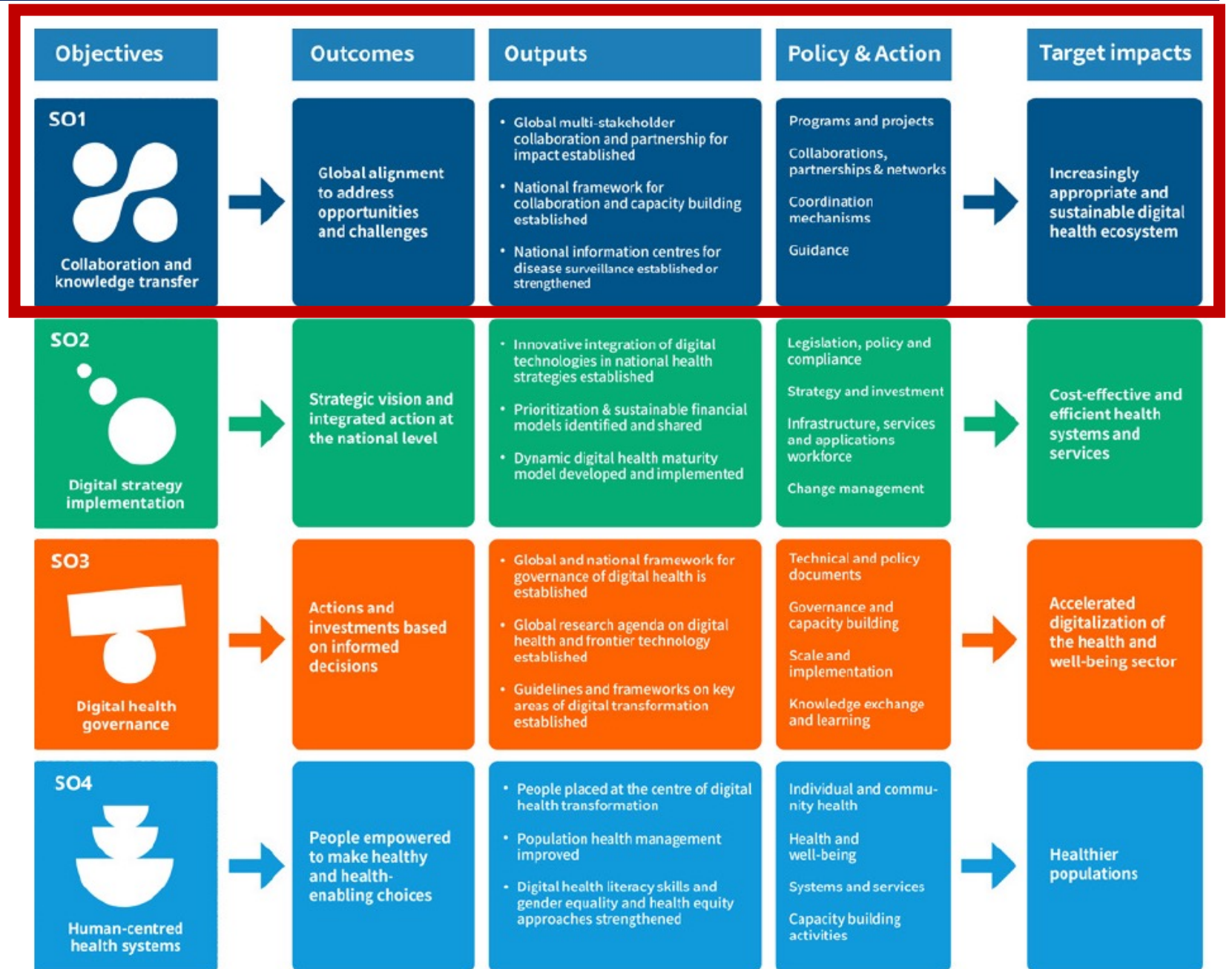


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Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020 - 2025 - Summary implementation of the action plan



15 Global Consultations over the course of 2023



SMART FHIR GUIDELINES
TECHNOLOGY ECOSYSTEM
GLOBAL CONVENING



Regional Committee Meetings
EURO / WPRO / SEARO / EMRO



AeHIN GENERAL MEETING 2023
Ensuring Digital Health for Better Outcome:
PUTTING BLUEPRINTS INTO PRACTICE



Key Barriers in today's Digital Health Ecosystem

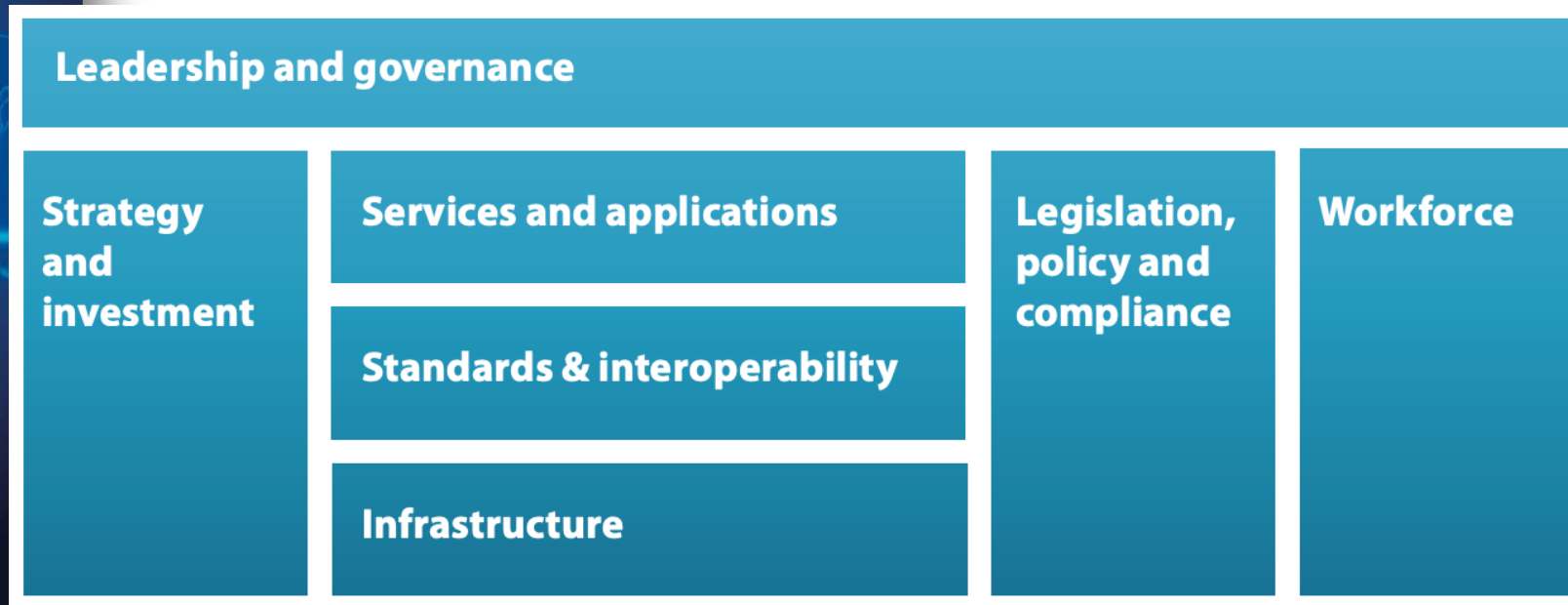
- Many strategies, few costed / action-blueprints
- Lack of governance and policy environment & institutions to shepherd transformation
- Lack of interoperability architecture & standards
- Inadequate human capacity
- Donor discordance and funding misalignment
- Inconsistent quality assurance of digital public goods (DPGs)
- Lack of platforms to engage entrepreneurs and promote LOCAL PRODUCTION



Sources:

- Landscape Analysis of Digital Health Learning Networks in Africa. PATH. February 2016. <https://www.path.org/resources/landscape-analysis-of-digital-health-learning-networks-in-africa/>
- About Digital Health. Digital Health Hubs. February 2021. <https://aboutdigitalhealth.com/2021/02/04/digital-health-hubs/#:~:text=The%20top%20digital%20health%20organizations%2C%20alliances%2C%20societies%20and,for%20Telemedicine%20and%20eHealth%20%28ISFTeH%29%206%20Frontiers%20Health>
- DPGA members: GDHP March 2023 G20 Coordination Work Group Meeting. Presentation by Steve Posnack GDHP Chair and Deputy National Coordinator, Office of the National Coordinator for Health I

One key message: **Countries are asking for **COORDINATED SUPPORT** to strengthen foundations to facilitate the shift from digital experimentation to digital transformation.**





Launch of the Global Initiative on Digital Health 20 February 2024



GIDH Principles:

A partnership for country-centred digital health transformation

STRENGTHEN capacity, governance & leadership

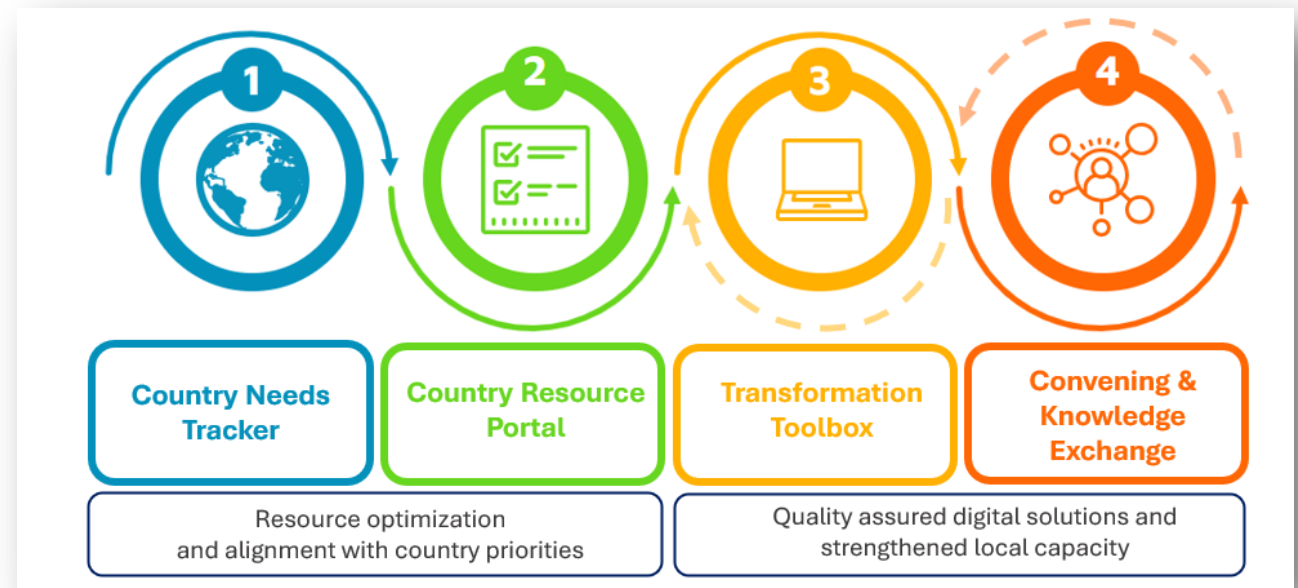
ALIGN implementation through collaboration

LEVERAGE quality-assured building blocks

ADVOCATE for and **TRACK** investments

ENABLE joint learning and knowledge exchange

MEASURE and **MONITOR** progress



GIDH Theory of Change



COUNTRIES COMMIT TO:

- **LEADING** national stakeholders
- Creating an **ENABLING** environment
- **PROMOTING** alignment

THROUGH WHO SUPPORT ON:

- **CONVENING** stakeholders
- **ADVANCING** standards, guidelines, content, and quality assured tools
- **COMPETENCIES** and **TRAINING**
- **REPOSITORIES** of strategies, blueprints
- **BASELINE MATURITY** assessment & mapping

ACCELERATED BY GIDH NETWORK THROUGH:

- GLOBAL**
 - Enhanced **INVESTMENT TRACKING** (e.g. OECD DAK DH)
 - **CHAMPIONING** country leadership
 - **ADVOCACY** for resource gaps
 - **KNOWLEDGE** exchange
 - **UN AGENCY** coordination
 - **REGIONAL NETWORK** federation
- COUNTRY**
 - Jointly **MAPPING & RESOURCING** country needs
 - **ROADMAP** development & implementation
 - Thematic **WORKING GROUPS**

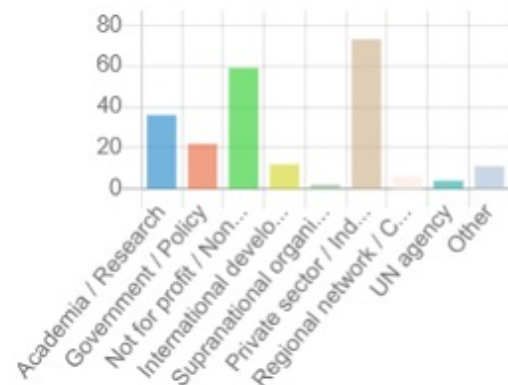
TO ACHIEVE COUNTRY RESULTS THAT:

- Increase **PARTNER ALIGNMENT & INVESTMENT**
- **EMPOWER** use of standards and quality assured building blocks
- Strengthen **INTEROPERABILITY**
- Build **LOCAL CAPACITY**
- Ensure **RETURN ON INVESTMENTS**
- Control **FRAGMENTATION**

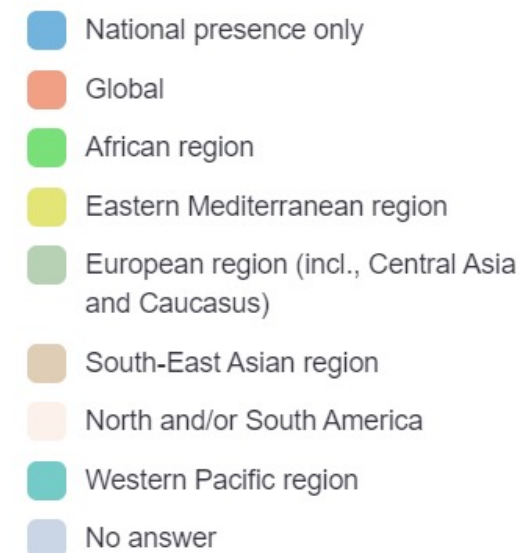
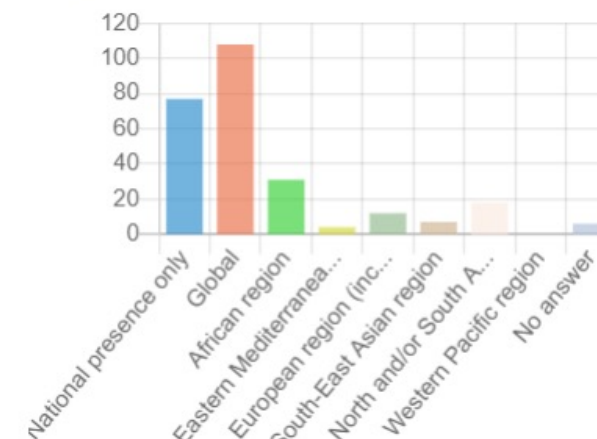
GIDH Membership

- Opened 20 Feb 2024
- 740+ applications received so far
- Institutions registered in 76 countries from all 6 WHO regions
- Institutional membership only

Select the cluster that best represents the institution



Geographical presence



GIDH Operational Highlights in 2024

1. **G20 2nd HWG Meeting and Partner Event:** Improving Metrics for Digital Transformation Resources (with OECD, World Bank, others), April 2024.
2. **Country Engagement Activities,** March-December 2024.
3. **Stakeholder Convenings and Priority Mapping,** March – December 2024.
4. **UN Partners (ITU, Unicef, UNDP, WHO, others) Coordination Commitment:** May 2024
5. **Toolbox solutions launched for country use,** April-June 2024.
6. **First Secretariat and Steering Committee** in-person meeting, 23 May 2024.
7. **GIDH 1st Global Digital Health Convening** during WSIS+ 20 High Level event in Geneva. Exact dates to be confirmed.
8. **Early-December:** Report of the State of Digital Health 2024 published.

Key Asks for Member States

- 1. Lighthouse country application:** Updates coming on GIDH webpage in mid-2024.
- 2. Identify a representative** to join the WSIS 2024 meetings in Geneva.
- 3. Support sensitization of GIDH** to Ministries of Health. Materials will be made available on GIDH webpage:
 - Promotional video
 - Recording of 20 February kick-off



DISCUSSION (~20 min)

Global Digital Health Certification Network

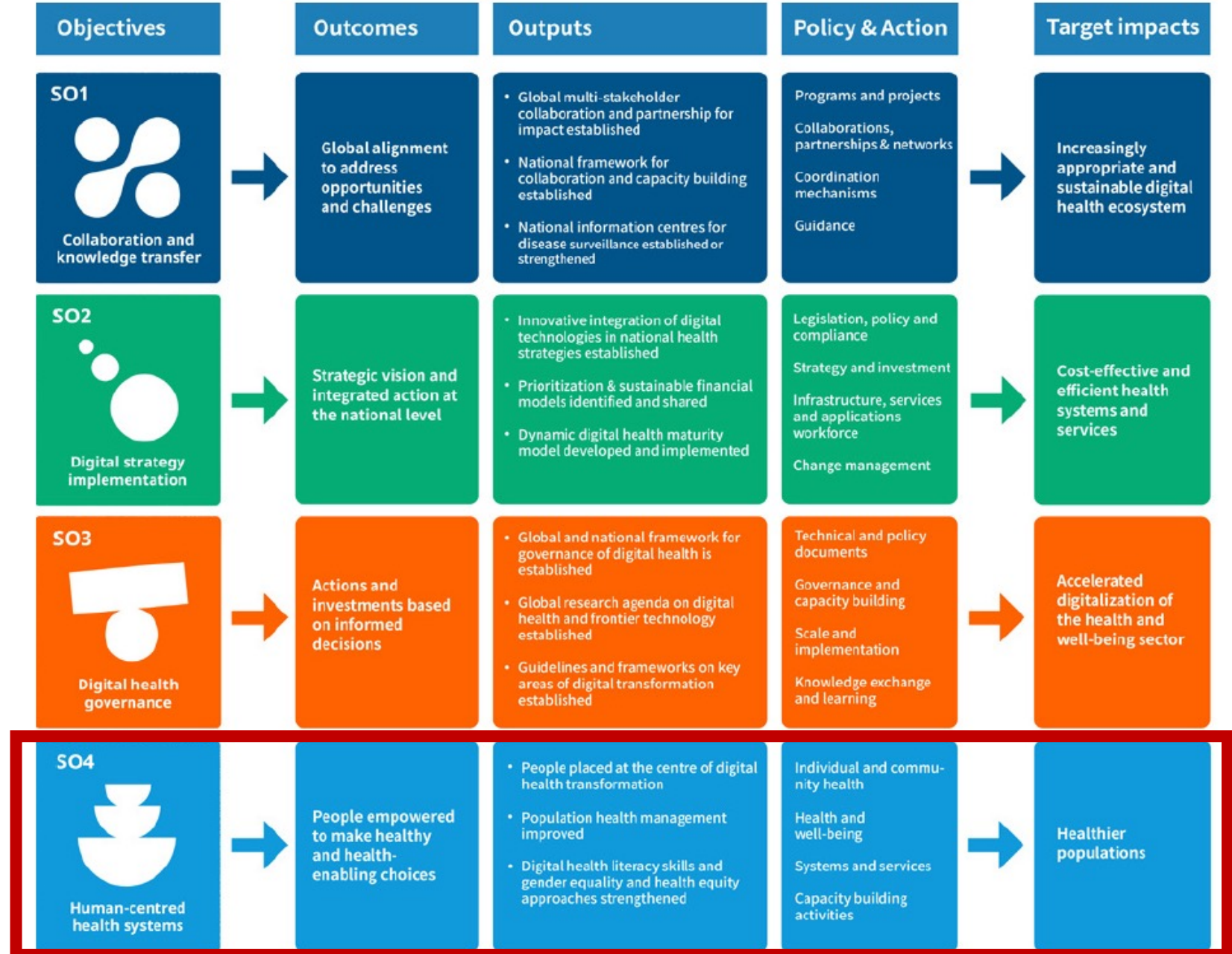
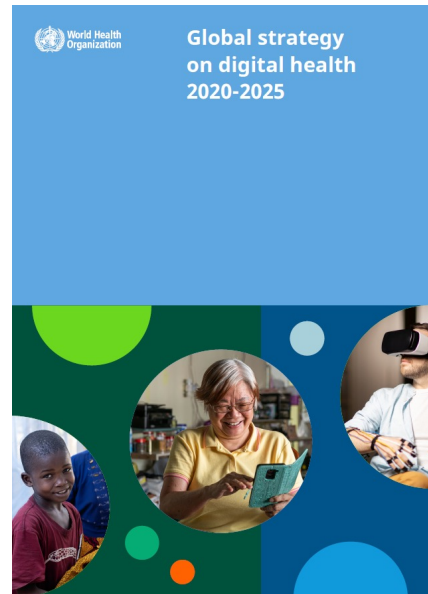


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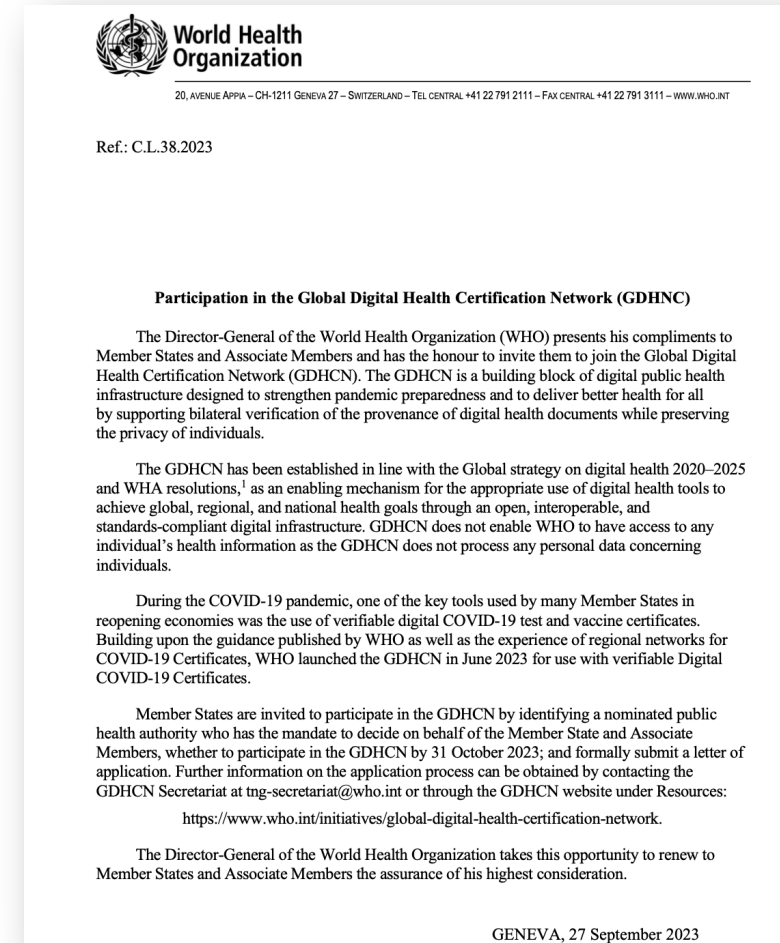
Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020 - 2025 - Summary implementation of the action plan



The Global Digital Health Certification Network (GDHCN)



- A global mechanism that supports bilateral **verification of the provenance of health documents** for pandemic preparedness and continuity of care.
- Digital Public Infrastructure
- Enables sharing (across/within borders) of:
 - Immunization records
 - Electronic “yellow card”
 - Patient Summary
- Other high-value use-cases
 - Cross border telemedicine, e-prescriptions
 - Health worker credentials



As of February 28, over 70 countries are participating in the network

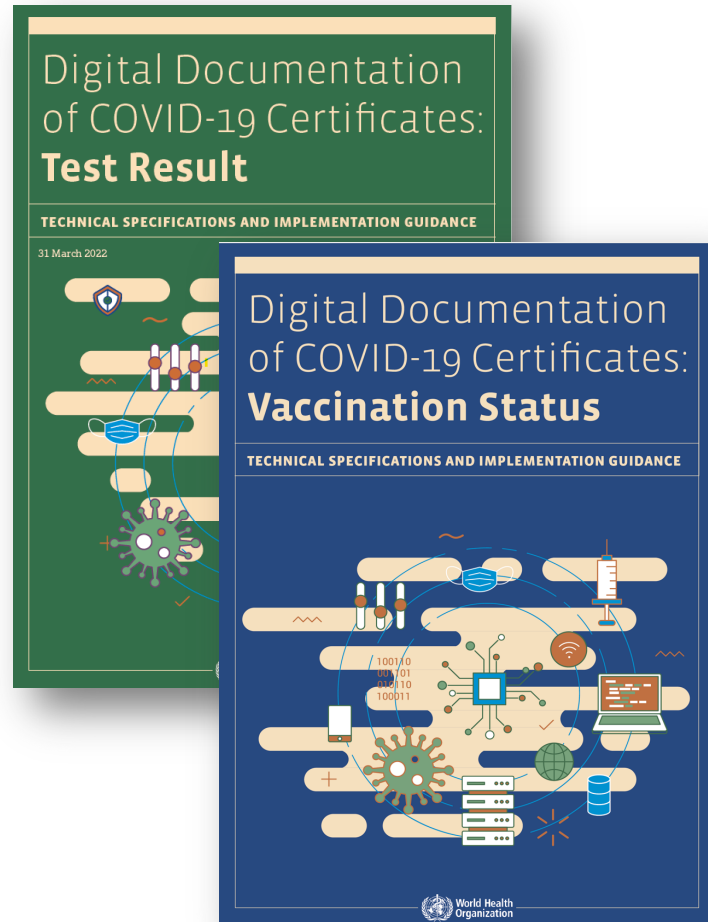
| Region of the Americas | African Region | Western Pacific Region | European Region | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bahamas 2. Bolivia 3. Belize 4. Brazil 5. Canada 6. Chile 7. Ecuador 8. Honduras 9. Paraguay 10. Suriname 11. Uruguay 12. El Salvador 13. Panama 14. Guatemala 15. Argentina 16. Colombia 17. Costa Rica 18. Peru 19. British Virgin Islands | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Benin 2. Zimbabwe 3. Madagascar 4. Burkina Faso 5. Tanzania 6. Burundi 7. Togo | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Zealand 2. Singapore 3. Japan 4. Australia 5. Mongolia 6. Malaysia | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belgium 2. Croatia 3. Czech Republic 4. Cyprus 5. Estonia 6. Finland 7. France 8. Greece 9. Israel 10. Latvia 11. Lithuania 12. Malta 13. Netherlands 14. San Marino 15. Slovakia 16. Spain 17. Sweden 18. Ukraine 19. United Kingdom 20. Iceland 21. Slovenia | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 22. Portugal 23. Georgia 24. Poland 25. Kyrgyzstan 26. Faroe Islands 27. Montenegro 28. Ireland 29. Andorra 30. Monaco 31. Türkiye 32. North Macedonia 33. Moldova 34. Armenia 35. Albania |
| | Eastern Mediterranean Region <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Morocco 2. Iraq 3. Qatar | South East Asia Region <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indonesia 2. Thailand 3. Sri Lanka | | |

X = In progress. Currently going through technical preparation, testing and/or pending Letter of Application

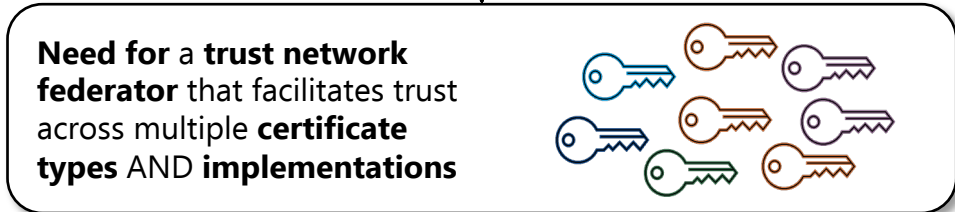
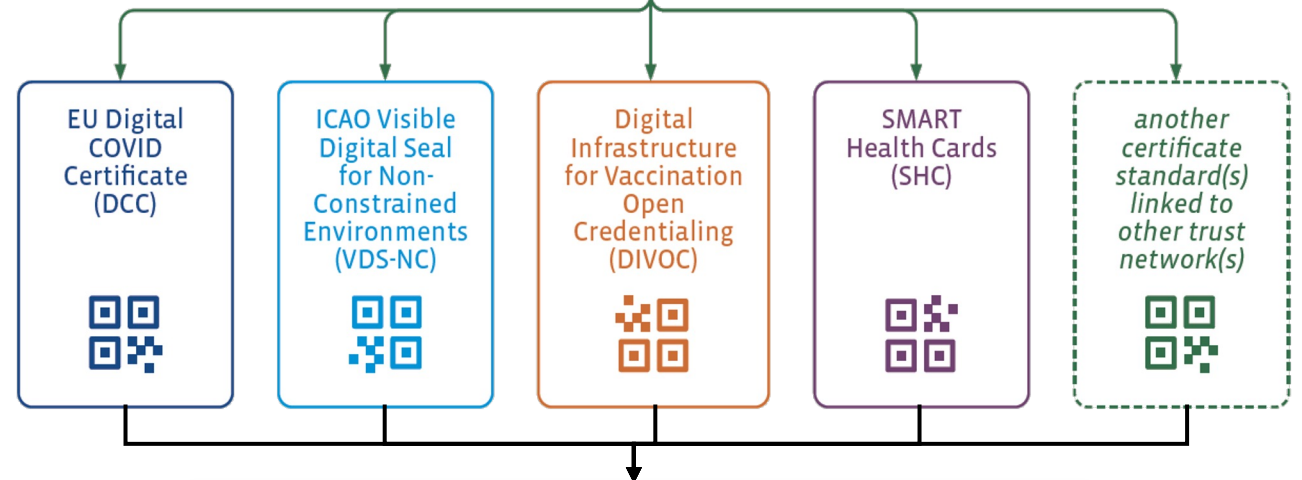
X = Onboarding completed. Testing completed and Letter of Application received.



The GDHCN was developed out of necessity during the Pandemic



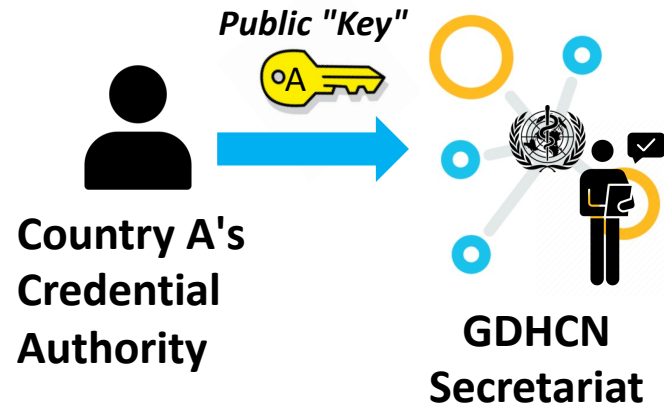
can be used to generate multiple representations of a test result certificate



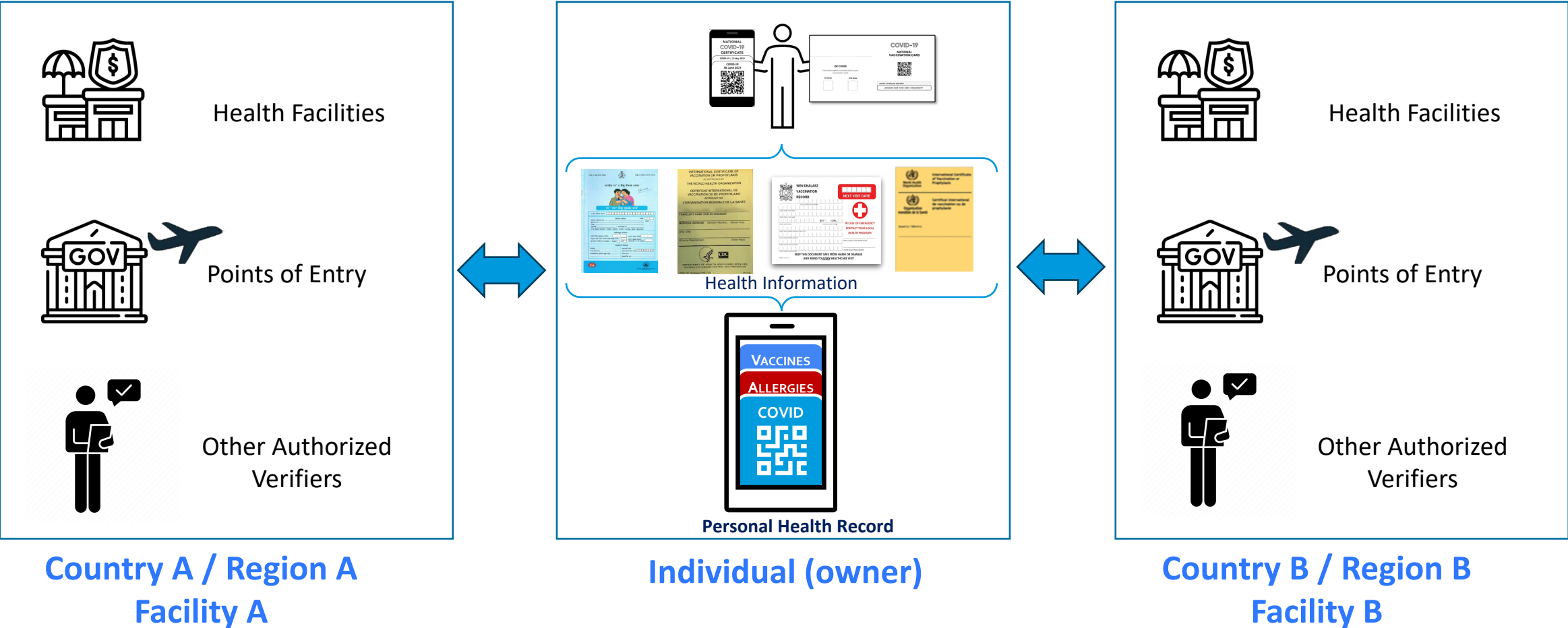
WHO's role as the GDHCN Secretariat – a “public key” directory

1

Verifies participant identity, certifies provenance of keys, onboards participant



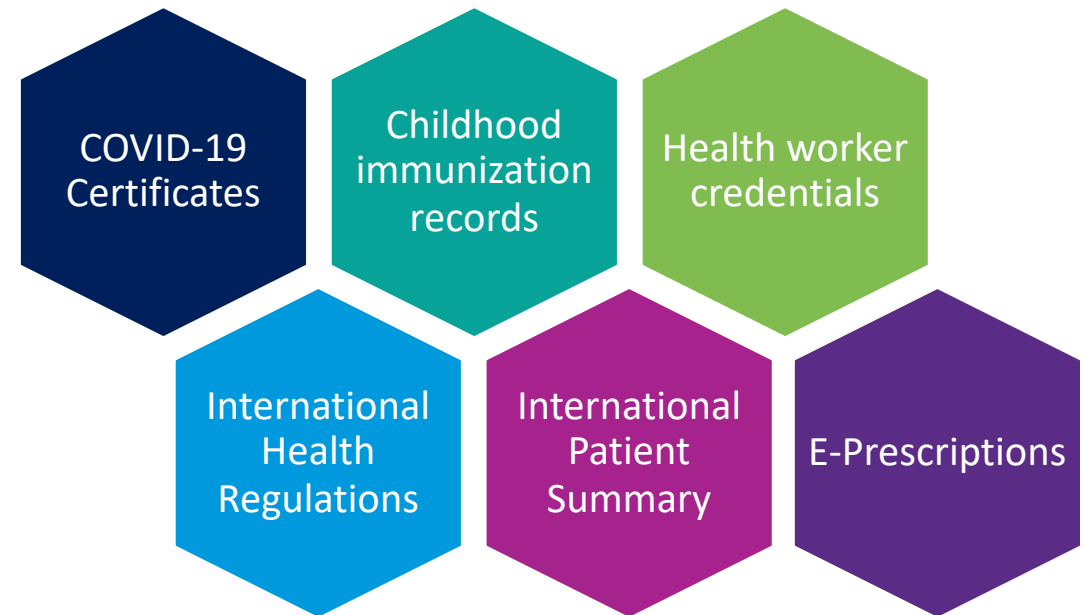
GDHCN supports person-mediated carriage of **their own health information** between members of the network.



There are multiple **use-cases** for the GDHCN beyond pandemic resilience that support person-centered needs.

- Each **use case will be** defined by:
 - Content **specifications**
 - Standardized **policies and processes**
 - **Trusted services** related to issuance, verification, revocation, and management of health certificates and documents related to that use case

Example **Use Cases**



Example use case: The International Patient Summary



- **Continuity of Care for People**
 - Vaccination records
 - Routine Clinical Care
- **Public health security**
 - COVID-19 Certificates
 - IHR - Yellow book / ICVP
- **Travel**
 - Cross-border and domestic movement
 - Pilgrimages and mass gatherings
 - Medical tourism
- **Migration**
 - Forced migration due to climate change
 - Failed states & Conflict

Process to join the Global Digital Health Certification Network

Template Letter of Application for GDHCN Eligible Participants using the Full Onboarding Process

to join WHO's Global Digital Health Certification Network for the Digital Documentation of COVID-19 Certificate (DDCC) Trust Domain

WHO Global Digital Health Certification Network (GDHCN) Secretariat
World Health Organization
Digital Health and Innovation
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva
Switzerland

Re: Application to join the WHO GDHCN [for Covid-19 Certificates]

With the recognition that:

- WHO has established a freely available global certification system for GDHCN Eligible Participants, the WHO Global Digital Health Certification Network (GDHCN);
- WHO will not store, process, transmit or otherwise have access to personal data (including COVID-19 Certificate Revocation lists) through the operation of the GDHCN.

As a duly authorized representative of the GDHCN Eligible Participant indicated below, I hereby confirm the will and intent of that GDHCN Eligible Participant to participate in and join the GDHCN for Digital Documentation of COVID-19 Certificates, and its readiness and intent to:

- comply with Ethical principles and data protection principles outlined in Section 2 of: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Digital_certificates-vaccination-2021.1;
- comply with the standards, security requirements, technological systems and process described in the FRAMEWORK FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS OF THE GLOBAL DIGITAL HEALTH CERTIFICATION NETWORK, which may be found here: https://smart.who.int/smart-trust/GDHCN_Administrative_and_Operational_Framework.pdf
- follow the Full Onboarding Process, which may be found at: https://smart.who.int/smart-trust/concepts_onboarding.html;
- ensure that COVID-19 certificates issued can be verified for their authenticity, validity and integrity utilizing the WHO GDHCN; and
- provide to WHO all additional information, [feedback](#) and organizational support, as needed and requested by WHO, to ensure successful connection to and utilization of the GDHCN.

<http://smart.who.int/trust>



WHO SMART Trust
1.0.0 - 1.0.0

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This page is part of the Trust (v1.0.0: Release) based on FHIR (HL7® FHIR® Standard) R4. This is the current published version. For a full list of available versions, see the [Directory of published versions](#)

1 Home

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Official URL: http://smart.who.int/trust/ImplementationGuide/smart.who.int.trust | Version: 1.0.0 |
| Active as of 2024-01-26 | Computable Name: trust |

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Overview

This guide describes the specifications and on-boarding procedures for WHO's Global Digital Health Certification Network (GDHCN). The GDHCN is a mechanism to support verification of health documents and certifications that are exchanged between participants of the GDHCN. These health certifications may include COVID-19 certificates, routine immunization cards, and home-based records consistent with International Patient Summary standards. This mechanism provides means of harmonizing global health protocol standards and establishing a system for recognition of digital certificates for continuity of care at point of entry. The GDHCN is designed to leverage existing investments by jurisdictions that were made under the COVID-19 response and provide the digital health infrastructure needed for resiliency in future epidemic and pandemic responses.

The GDHCN is a digital reflection of the trust WHO already has with Member States. The GDHCN is a digital trust network is based on proven [concepts](#) which are used to describe the specifications and mechanisms for establishing trust. Eligible participants of the trust network may apply to join by following an [on-boarding process](#). The GDHCN is operated under the [GDHCN Administrative and Operational Framework](#).

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- [Providing Feedback](#)
- [Community](#)
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GDHCN Key Links & Resources



Overview of the Global Digital Health Certification Network

<https://www.who.int/initiatives/global-digital-health-certification-network>

Onboarding process

https://smart.who.int/smart-trust/concepts_onboarding.html

Press release announcing the launch of the GDHCN and collaboration with the European Commission

<https://www.who.int/news/item/05-06-2023-the-european-commission-and-who-launch-landmark-digital-health-initiative-to-strengthen-global-health-security>

Secretariat email for onboarding

tng-secretariat@who.int

Secretariat email for technical support questions

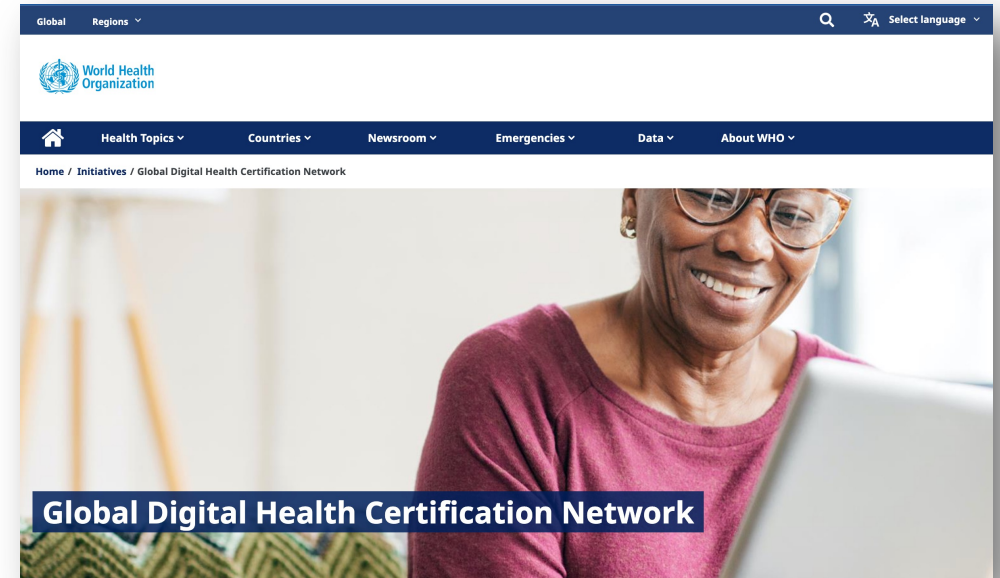
tng-support@who.int

Technical specifications

<https://worldhealthorganization.github.io/smart-trust/index.html>

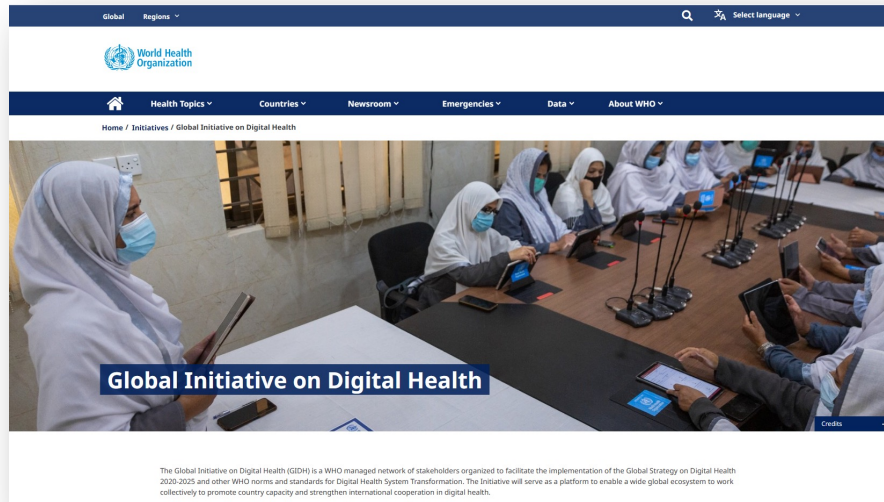
Key Asks for Member States

1. Apply to onboard to the GDHCN
2. Support increased regional engagement GDHCN
3. Propose new domestic and cross-border use-cases
4. Participate in governance of use cases
5. Support with public advocacy and civil engagement to build trust in person-centered digital systems
6. Advocate for adequate resourcing to maintain and manage GDHCN at all levels



DISCUSSION (~20 min)

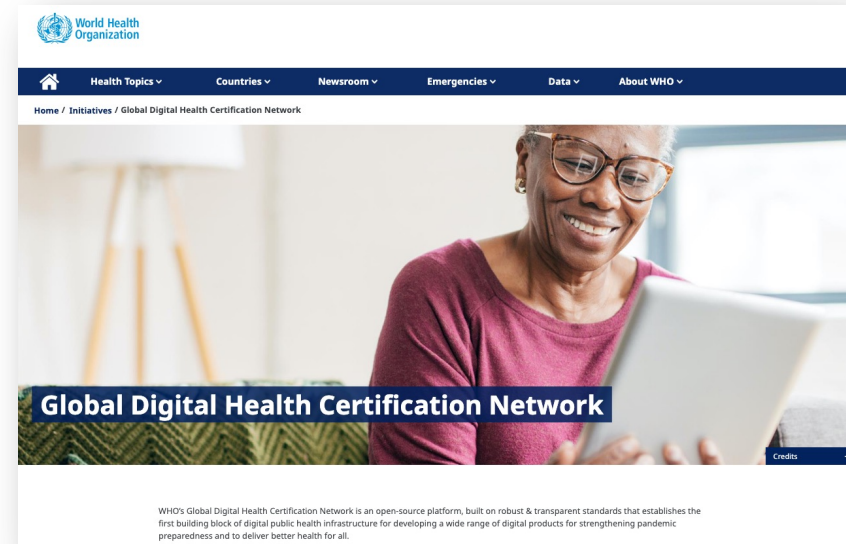
Supporting countries to amplify use of existing best practices, accelerating **ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES**



WHO GIDH WEBSITE



Strengthening Global Digital Public Infrastructure for **PREPAREDNESS** and to **FACILITATE CROSS-BORDER** collaboration



WHO GDHCN WEBSITE





World Health
Organization

Global strategy
on digital health
2020-2025

Thank you

Digital health should be an integral part of health priorities and benefit people in a way that is ethical, safe, secure, reliable, equitable and sustainable. It should be developed with principles of transparency, accessibility, scalability, replicability, interoperability, privacy, security and confidentiality.



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